



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT ON A FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Michael Mehling**, 50, currently of Louisville, Kentucky, formerly of Leavenworth, Kansas, entered a guilty plea today before U.S. District Judge Kathryn H. Vratil to one count of making a false statement on a federal income tax return.

Melgren stated that Mehling admitted at his plea that in February 1997 he filed a 1996 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return with the IRS claiming that he had no taxable income in 1996 when he knew that he had taxable income of approximately \$87,242.00 from selling education programs and soliciting funds for investments and owed approximately \$23,649.00 to the IRS. Mehling further admitted that in 1997 and 1998 he continued to sell education programs and solicit funds for investments and that in 1998 he filed a 1997 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return claiming taxable income of \$9,224.08 for 1997 when he knew that he had taxable income of approximately \$72,731.00 and owed approximately \$18,373.00 to the IRS; and in 1999 he filed a 1998 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return claiming taxable income of \$8,775.44 for 1998 when he knew that he had taxable income of approximately 69,632.00 and owed approximately \$17,297.00 to the IRS.

Mehling faces a maximum of three years in federal prison, without parole. Sentencing is set for October 20, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.